

Mr. CHAFEE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. I just wanted to know. There will be no more votes. But will the discussion continue on this particular amendment tonight, or is it going to be continued also tomorrow?

Mr. BUMPERS. No. The amendment will be the subject of an hour and 15 minutes of debate tomorrow.

Does that answer the Senator's question?

Mr. CHAFEE. Yes. In other words, you are winding up the debate pretty soon here.

Thank you.

Mr. BUMPERS. We will debate tonight as long as anybody wants to say anything on this, and then we will shut the Senate down as soon as we run out of debate.

AMENDMENT NO. 3557 WITHDRAWN

Mr. BUMPERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Jeffords amendment be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3556, AS MODIFIED

Mr. BUMPERS. Madam President, I do not want to belabor these rich folks too long. The last one that I want to point out to for the edification of my colleagues is the gentleman by the name of J. R. Simplot from the great State of Idaho. He is 86 years old and has obviously been a great entrepreneur. I do not know a thing in the world about him. I assume he is a very fine man. In 1991, *Forbes* magazine identified him as one of the wealthiest individuals in the United States. Furthermore, he is on the cover of *Fortune* magazine in November 1995. Here is the magazine, if anybody would care to look at it.

His sales that year were \$3 billion. And Mr. Simplot, to his credit and to his ingenuity, controls 50,000 AUM's in Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada.

Finally, a Japanese named Kaiku controls 6,000 AUM's on 40,000 acres of Federal land in Montana.

What does our amendment do? I will not belabor the point because it is very simple. We make a distinction between that group of people that I showed you a moment ago. Look at this chart, colleagues. We make a distinction in what people in this category pay, and what people in this category pay.

Ninety-one percent of the permittees under our amendment will pay just a little bit more than they would pay under the Domenici proposal, and in some years less than the Domenici proposal. Ninety-one percent of them will pay just a few cents more than Senator DOMENICI's bill requires.

This other 9 percent, which control 60 percent of all the AUM's, will pay either the same amount as the small ranchers, plus 25 percent, or a weighted average of the State fees charged in the State in which the permit is located, whichever is higher.

That is as fair as a proposition could be. You can accept this amendment

and agree that these people have taken advantage of a generous Congress who passed this law and gave these permits to people thinking they were helping poor ranchers make a living. And now we find 60 percent of this land and AUM's are controlled by the richest people of America. Even under our proposal, to require these rich people to pay the weighted average of what the State charges, will still be in most instances around 100 percent less than what the private sector charges for grazing.

Madam President, why are we defending a system that promotes the use of the public lands for the wealthiest when it was intended for the poorest? Because it is an old law and we just simply have not been able to turn it loose and make it work the way it was supposed to.

When I came here in 1975, I found out that the Federal Government was leasing Federal lands for oil and gas leasing by lottery, like a bingo game. If you won the lottery, you got the land for \$1 an acre. When I began to raise questions about it, they said, "We are trying to make sure those little mom and pop operations get some of this Federal land."

We started checking the little mom and pop operations, and guess what was happening? They were retirees in Florida. They were elderly people who were snapping up these lottery chances because they were advertised all over America by a bunch of snake oil salesmen. And if they did happen to win the lottery, what do you think they did with it? They took it to Exxon, and if Exxon thought it had potential, they paid them a fortune for it.

That is what we did for mom and pop operators. We made people, who did not know what a drilling rig looked like, wealthy because we refused to change that old law. I just made my mining speech yesterday so I am not going to make that again, but how many times have I heard that old story about those poor little old mom and pop mining companies out there?

It turns out, as I began to examine it, that we are helping the biggest corporations in the world—not the United States, in the world. Now, here is *deja vu*. If someone argues that the State's rates are too high, I will answer that they have people standing in line wanting these permits. And when then they say, "But that mean old BLM hassles us. They make us sort of take care of the land." But you know something else that the BLM and the Forest Service do? They take 50 percent of the rent and put it back into the land. How many landlords do you know that take 50 percent of the rent they receive and put it back into improvements of your apartment or your house? Fifty percent goes back to improve the very land where these cattlemen are running their cattle.

Madam President, the Public Rangelands Management Act was passed in 1978. As I stated earlier, the fee under

that formula has declined. In 1980, the fee was \$2.36 and in 1996, the fee is \$1.35. Our amendment would use the same formula and simply raise the minimum.

My amendment requires 91 percent of the deserving ranchers to pay very little more than they are paying right now. In 1999, our rate would go to \$2 and under Senator DOMENICI's amendment the fee would be \$1.85—15 cents difference. Who is going to quibble about that? However, under our amendment these people, the wealthiest people in America, would have to pay more.

Madam President, two quick points, and I will conclude and let others speak who wish to. Karl Hess, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute, which is not exactly a citadel of liberalism, no bleeding heart liberals over at Cato, simply believes that the Government ought to get fair value for its assets. Here is a statement by Mr. Hess:

Domenici's bill is bad for ranchers, bad for public lands, bad for the American taxpayer. It will not improve management of public lands and it will not be a fix for the hard economic times now faced by ranchers. What it will do, however, is deepen the fiscal crisis of the public land grazing program by plunging it into an ever-deepening deficit. If western ranchers insist on supporting this bill and the additional costs associated with it, they should be prepared to pay the price. Tagging the majority of Federal grazing fees to state grazing rates is one essential step in that direction.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 1459, the Public Rangelands Management Act of 1995. Rangeland reform is important both for the health of our public lands and the ranching industry in the Western States. I commend my colleague from New Mexico, Senator DOMENICI, for his work in bringing this bill to the Senate floor.

Let me make clear up front, S. 1459 is not an attempt to weaken existing environmental laws applicable to grazing. All major environmental laws continue to apply as written. This bill provides for better rangeland management by establishing standards and guidelines at the State or regional level, so that rangeland policy can take regional differences into account. Nothing is more important to me than the preservation of these multiple-use lands for present and future generations. I would not, and could not support anything to the contrary.

There continues to be debate about what is an appropriate fee for grazing on public land. It is important that the Government realize a fair return for the use of Federal lands. This legislation prescribes a new formula for calculating grazing fees. Under this formula, fees would rise approximately 30 percent over the present level.

For those who make their living from the land, and who put food on the table for all of us, we want to offer some certainty for the future. We must protect rancher's private property rights, provide stability on grazing allotments,